

Sun Peaks Education Society

2017

Annual Report

The Sun Peaks Education Society (SPES) is now well into its eighth year of successful community funded school operations in Sun Peaks. Growing from an initial classroom of 19 students, we now have close to 120 students attending schools here in our community. This is all thanks to tireless volunteer efforts and the generous support of area residents, the local business community, Sun Peaks Mountain Resort Municipality, and Sun Peaks Resort.

The SPES operated Sun Peaks Secondary Academy (SPSA) continues to provide excellent academic programming through our teaching staff and a strong working partnership with the SD73 @KOOL program. Our SPSA students are heavily involved in educational activities, volunteering, and sports in the community. They have been able to participate in many events and initiatives to enhance their educational experience and give back to the community. Some of the activities and events attended over the past year are listed below.

- WE day (inspirational student conference)
- WE scare hunger (collecting none perishable foods for the local Food Bank)
- Volunteering at the Kamloops Food Bank
- Christmas Concert with Sun Peaks Elementary
- Art at 4 Cats Studio
- Maker Day –Applied Design Skills and Technology (grades 7,8,9)
- Volunteering at Sun Peaks Elementary (Buddy Reading, Yearbook.)
- Food Safe
- X-country biking, hiking, x-country running, rock climbing, disc golf
- Alpine skiing, snowboarding, Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating
- Field trip to Clearwater for paddle sports (kayaking, canoeing, rafting and guiding, paddle boarding)

For this year we have shifted from having two half-time teachers to one full time teacher which is working well for the students. This year we also have a number of students who will be graduating and plans are being organized to recognise and celebrate their achievements.

There have been a number of other of key changes in the past year including the addition of Grade 7 to the SD73 operated Sun Peaks Elementary School and the relocation of Sun Peaks Secondary Academy. With the continued elementary enrollment growth and addition of grade 7, the elementary needed an additional classroom. The SPSA classroom was transferred to the elementary and the Municipality purchased and set up the new SPSA classroom adjacent to the Alpine club. Our SPSA students are now settled in and well on their way to making it their new home.

November 6, 2017

There are now approximately 20 students attending the SPSA, about the same as last year as the transition of grade 7 kept a relatively large cohort of approximately 12 students in Sun Peaks Elementary. This has provided the SPES with more time to prepare for growth with 12 students in each of the elementary grades who will start to stream into the SPES. With these numbers and continued community growth, this will likely result in about 50 students in grades 8 through 12 by the 2020-21 school year.

Planning to accommodate this growth has been a major focus for the SPES Directors and will continue to be a priority. Through continued engagement with the Municipality and SD73 we will be looking for the support necessary to accommodate growth and offer quality schooling to the secondary students in our community.

Fundraising is, as always, a critical underlying priority for the SPES and since our incorporation in 2010 over \$570,000 has been raised to support our educational mandate. With the support of our community and efforts of many volunteers our fundraising efforts have continued to be successful. The financial position of the Society remains healthy as detailed in the financial statements. These funds are used to cover 100% of the operational costs of the SPSA classroom, including the salary of our teacher and other classroom operational expenses. Although our cash position is sufficient, continuing efforts are needed to ensure our revenues meet our increasing operating costs. Major fundraising events/sources over the last year are noted below and all are expected to continue to be at least as successful during the current year.

Major Funding Sources and Approximate amounts raised (Aug 2016-Jul 2017)

- 2016 Nancy Green Big Little Golf Tournament \$11k
- 2016 Firefighters Society Gala \$12k
- 2016 Sotheby's Art Auction \$8k
- 2017 Symphony in the Snow \$12k
- Returnable Bottle/Can Depot \$8k
- Personal Donations \$11k

Volunteers continue to be essential to the success of the Sun Peaks Secondary Academy. Without the strong support of all volunteers, including all parents and community members, our operation would not be possible. The SPES will continue to require and encourage 100% participation from SPSA Parents to help ensure the sustainability of the SPSA. If you are interested in being a part of the organizing committees or simply helping out during the events please contact the SPES.

The SPES looks forward to a bright future for the students of our community, thank you for your ongoing support!

Respectfully,

Ross Blakeney,
President, Sun Peaks Education Society

November 6, 2017